

1 **CLAIMS**

2       1.     A method of mapping a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) string  
3 comprising:

4             searching for a particular pattern in an input URL string, the pattern being  
5 defined in a manner that permits the search to be satisfied while allowing  
6 variability among constituent parts of the input URL string; and

7             replacing the input URL string with an output URL string if the pattern is  
8 found in the input URL string.

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10       2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the particular pattern comprises a  
11 regular expression.

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13       3.     The method of claim 1, wherein the act of searching comprises:  
14             accessing a plurality of input expressions, each of which describes a  
15 different pattern, wherein the input expressions are each associated with an output  
16 expression; and

17             checking the input URL string against the input expressions to determine a  
18 *matching input expression*.

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20       4.     The method of claim 3, wherein said replacing comprises:  
21             generating an output URL string from the output expression associated  
22 with the matching input expression.

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24       5.     The method of claim 1, wherein said searching comprises:  
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1       accessing a plurality of input expressions, each of which describes a  
2       different pattern, wherein the input expressions are each associated with an output  
3       expression;

4       checking the input URL string against the input expressions to determine a  
5       matching input expression; and

6       wherein said replacing comprises generating an output URL string from the  
7       output expression associated with the matching input expression.

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9       **6.**     A Uniform Resource Locator (URL) mapping engine comprising an  
10      Application Programming Interface (API) that exposes a plurality of methods that  
11      are associated with managing rules that govern mapping capabilities of the URL  
12      mapping engine.

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14      **7.**     A method of mapping a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) string  
15      comprising:

16          receiving an input URL string;

17          mapping the input URL string to an output expression having a tagged  
18          expression therein; and

19          using the tagged expression to provide an output URL string.

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21      **8.**     The method of claim 7, wherein the act of using comprises:  
22          invoking a lookup procedure specified by the tagged expression to produce  
23          a result; and  
24          using the result to generate the output URL string.

1           **9.**     A computer-readable medium having computer-executable  
2 instructions for performing acts comprising:

3                 receiving an input Uniform Resource Locator (URL) string;

4                 evaluating the input URL string against a plurality of rules to identify a rule  
5 specifying a text pattern corresponding to the URL string, each rule having an  
6 output expression associated therewith, at least one rules specifying a text pattern  
7 correspond to more than one combination of text characters; and

8                 producing an output URL string using an output expression associated with  
9 the identified rule.

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11           **10.**    A computer-readable medium as defined in claim 9, wherein each  
12 rule includes a rule ID and a rule action type.

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14           **12.**    A computer-readable medium having computer-executable  
15 instructions for performing acts comprising:

16                 defining a plurality of rules, wherein each rule specifies:

17                     a text pattern;

18                     a rule ID;

19                     a rule action type; and

20                     a corresponding output expression;

21                 wherein at least some of the text patterns correspond to more than one  
22 combination of text characters;

23                 evaluating the rules against a URL string to identify a rule specifying a text  
24 pattern corresponding to the URL string; and  
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1 replacing the URL string with an output string specified by the output  
2 expression of the identified rule.  
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